

# THE INDIANA CHANT

by April Pulley Sayre

America's crossroads!  
Highways run—  
past rows of corn  
beneath the sun.

Tomatoes. Hay.  
Soybeans. Wheat.  
Storm fronts clash  
in summer's heat.

Rivers roll—  
winding bright!  
Kankakee. Maumee.  
Wabash. White.

St. Joseph. Sugar Creek.  
Flatrock. Blue.  
Ohio, Eel and . . .  
Tippecanoe!

Steel and Studebakers.  
Indy cars.  
Farmers markets.  
Canning jars.

Karst and caves.  
Crinoids. Rocks.  
Indiana limestone  
building blocks.

Horses, buggies,  
tractors, trains.  
Tree frogs trilling.  
Sandhill cranes.

Bass lake. Lemon lake.  
Ready to row?  
Maxinkuckee.  
Morse. Monroe!

Mississinewa.  
Wawasee.  
Patoka. Brookville.  
James. Santee!

Indianapolis?  
Walk. Don't run!  
Fort Wayne. South Bend.  
Bloomington.

Hammond. Gary.  
Carmel's sweet.  
Evansville. Elkhart.  
Stroll a street!

Ball State, Butler,  
Pick Purdue.  
Notre Dame, Ivy Tech.  
Go, I. U.!

Squirrels. Rabbits.  
Woodchucks. Deer.  
Bison. Bats.  
Their home is here.

Oak and beech trees.  
Wildflower spring.  
Migrating birds  
feed and sing.

Forest. Prairie.  
Dune and swale.  
Strawberries, blueberries,  
by the pail!

Chain of Lakes.  
Clifty Falls.  
Raceways. Greenways.  
Basketballs!

Coaches. Composers.  
Engineers.  
Veterans. Vice-presidents.  
A nation cheers!

Astronauts. Artists.  
Olympians, too.  
Hoosier heroes—  
could be you!

Imagine. Invent.  
Cheer your team!  
Indiana! Indiana!  
Plan. Plant. Dream!

**April Pulley Sayre**, an Indiana resident, is an award-winning author/illustrator of over sixty books for young people. Her books *Rah, Rah, Radishes: a Vegetable Chant*; *Go, Go, Grapes: a Fruit Chant*; and *Let's Go Nuts: Seeds We Eat* feature Indiana and Michigan produce from the South Bend Farmer's Market. Indiana bumblebees, birds, fish, and weather inspired her books *Raindrops Roll*, *Trout, Trout, Trout: a Fish Chant*, *The Bumblebee Queen*, and *Woodpecker Wham*. Her husband Jeff co-authored the *Kaufman Field Guide to the Nature of the Midwest*, which covers plants and animals of Indiana and six other states. For more information, see [www.aprilsayre.com](http://www.aprilsayre.com).

Sayre is happy to celebrate the state's anniversary by lending this chant to its public libraries and schools. Copies of the chant text can be used and distributed among Indiana groups for out loud readings and performances. Excerpts can be used by libraries, schools, and municipalities for temporary art involved in the celebration. (Students may want to illustrate a stanza for their school or add their own nonfiction notes to elaborate on the caves, crinoids, and other features of Indiana.)

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